

...organizer, they
get stored in its inter-
phone book. Verizon
it's working on a way to
this, but it's not available
—one more area where
interface and the imple-
mentation of this service
work. —Daniel
enberg

Web phones I have
you spend browsing.
rates you to experiment

connect to the Web it
from there you have ac-
cessible and bookmarks
set up for WAP (Wire-
less, delete the pre-
to figure out—the inter-

for example, for a Chi-
where it is and how to get
amazon.com and, if you set
try dangerous) tap of the
data and can make

ving directions and
phone will display each
plete that leg, push a but-
in addition to forecasts
ted and dangerous
that kept me from get-
out to roll through the

el network were helpful
and of way. If I were pay-
re a different opinion,
eden II

Should I worry about signing a yearly contract?

The main liability with a contract is that it locks you into a particular cost structure 12 months in advance, when in the future your needs might change. You can switch plans—but you'll usually have to sign up for a new one-year contract then. (AT&T lets you switch without renewing, but only three times a year; Nextel requires a new contract only if you switch to a discounted plan; Cellular One charges \$10 if you move to a cheaper plan.)

But the lack of a contract doesn't give you a lot more freedom to switch providers—you can't use one carrier's phone with another's service here, even if both use the same basic digital technology.

Whatever you do, don't sign a contract for a term longer than a year. The industry is moving too fast to make that kind of a commitment.

So how do I decide what plan is right?

Estimate how many calls you will place each month—and how many calls you will get. Then add, oh, 10 percent to that total. See which plans include a monthly total of minutes greater than that. If you're not going to buy a nationwide or regional plan, think hard about when you'd be tempted to use the phone out of town. A few roaming calls a month won't throw your bill out of whack, but it doesn't take too many lengthy calls from the airport to wipe out the savings from using a cheaper local plan.

What about picking out a particular phone?

It's largely a matter of personal taste and budget; the latter depends on what promotions are being offered, which tend to fluctuate almost weekly. Size and battery life are the most important factors; if you want to try out the wireless Web, you'll need a larger-than-normal screen.

duct will
in with a
20,000 yen
ch date was
like Musgrove

Join FFWD's Fast Friday

Club—more than 7,100 members strong—to get our monthly e-mail newsletter, packed with gossip, commentary and previews of future stories, plus the occasional request for your input. To join, send an e-mail to listserv@listserv.net. Leave the subject blank; in the message body, type: **subscribe ffwd [your name]**.

Comments/Questions

E-mail us at ffwd@washpost.com
Write FFWD/The Washington Post
1150 15th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20071
Or call 202-334-7892

e-vents

Work With Me—Monday, Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.

At a general meeting of the Capital PC User Group, Microsoft representatives will demonstrate Windows Me's multimedia capabilities. National Institutes of Health, Masur Auditorium, Building 10 (Clinical Center), 9000 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. <http://cpcug.org>

Tech Patents—Tuesday, Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m.

A meeting of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Internet Society will bring together three experts to discuss the U.S. Patent Office's attempts to keep up with the increasing pace of technology. Booz-Allen Hamilton, Allen Building, 8283 Greensboro Dr., McLean. <http://www.dcsoc.org>

Net, be fore

on traveling with

— if you are I

sted it show

T's own map

ots where

ington area,

around the

able in some

ervice was u

e Internet. P

able to cor

signal that

ave a digital

ct that beca

addition, do

)

ue to AT&T,

last proble

marked at al

sites cannot

involved feat

bookmarking

ect to another

otony. If you

ice, prepare f

an a numeric

r information

ould you hav

instead. In

n a handheld

spend that

s are a compl

ndar and con

T&T's extra-

not be able t

a keypad for

ne were tedio

king and sen

tempting to

s we tested—

time we tried

iven that the

almost an ho

w time was a

i theater at 6

ned like a go

ance: the pho

Unfortunately,

y quickly.

ing" to a min

s included in

ings, Zagat re

he basics are

—has its use

Digital Pocke